



Week 3 Assignment

Overview

An online learning community is dependent on e-communication. Emails, e-presentations, e-newsletters, e-meetings, and e-publishing are all part of online learning.

In this week's assignment, you will create a wiki, and use your wikispace to invite colleagues, preferably at your school and grade level, to join you in establishing an online learning community.

Rubric

Use the following Rubric to guide your work on the Week 3 Assignment.

Tasks ↓	Accomplished 10 The evidence suggests that this work is a "Habit of Mind." The educator is ready to mentor others in this area.	Proficient 8 The evidence suggests that performance on this work matches that of a strong educator.	Needs Improvement 6 The evidence does not yet make the case for the educator being proficient at this task.
Creating a Wiki	Student successfully creates a wiki and provides required information.	Student successfully creates a wiki and provides required information.	Student does not create a wiki or provide wiki information.
Inviting Wiki Members	Student identifies four or more colleagues who have accepted invitations to join the wiki.	Student identifies 2-3 colleagues who have accepted invitations to join the wiki.	Student does not identify colleagues who have joined the wiki.
Creating a Wiki Home Page	Student successfully creates a wiki home page, and provides thoughtful analysis of the benefits and challenges of using a wiki to communicate and collaborate with colleagues.	Student successfully creates a wiki home page, and provides brief analysis of the benefits and challenges of using a wiki.	Wiki home page is not created, and/or student does not provide analysis on the benefits and challenges of using wiki.
Assignment Mechanics	Responses are relevant to course content; no errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation.	Responses are relevant to course content; few errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation.	Responses do not reflect knowledge of course content, lack clarity and depth, and/or include multiple errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation, including APA errors.

Week 3 Assignment, Part 1: Creating a Wiki

A wiki is an excellent tool for establishing and facilitating an online learning community. Through the wiki, community members can collaboratively plan, share information, reflect on the information, and communicate with each other.

For Part 1 of your Week 3 Assignment, you will set up a wiki account. You will then invite colleagues, preferably at your campus and grade level, to join you in using the wiki to establish an online learning community.

To complete this assignment:

- Enter the following address into your web address bar: <http://www.wikispaces.com>
- On the right side of the screen under “Get Started,” fill out the first three boxes with a username, password, and your email address.
- Record your information in the space below.

Website Name and Address	Website's Purpose	My Username	My Password	My URL
Activusers http://activeusers.wikispaces.com	Discussing how to get our campus to utilize online learning more effectively. This is a tool to easily discuss professional development sessions we are going to host at our campus this school year.	lmknight	lamar	http://activeusers.wikispaces.com

Week 3 Assignment, Part 2: Inviting Wiki Members

To complete this assignment:

- Enter the following address into your web address bar: <http://www.wikispaces.com>
- On the left side of the screen under the word “Actions,” click on “Make a New Space.” This will take you to “Make a New Space Now.”
- In the box next to “Space Name,” give your space a name, which will be the URL to your newly created site.
- On the next page, be sure that “Protected” is selected at “Space Visibility.” All spaces must have permissions set to “Protected” to ensure integrity of your work. This will keep the public from modifying anything on your page. Only members of your wikispace will be able to edit content. Click “Join.”
- Close the “Getting Started with Your Wikispace” popup box.
- Click on the “Manage Space” link on the upper left-hand side of the page.
- Under “Space Settings,” click “Members and Permissions” link.
- Under “Invite a New Member,” key in one email address of a colleague who wants to join your wiki. Click “Invite.”
- When the invitation appears, you can add the other email addresses in the “To” bar. Insert commas between each email address. Edit the message to include your invitation to join the online learning community. *Did you invite me to join your wiki?* Click “Send.”

In the space below, list the people who have accepted invitations to join your wiki. You don’t have to provide their names, simply list them as “third-grade teacher,” “science department chair,” etc.

Principal CIT-Campus Instructional Technologist Kindergarten-Team Leader First Grade teacher Third Grade teacher
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Week 3 Assignment, Part 3: Creating a Wiki Home Page

After the colleagues at your school respond to the invitation to join the wiki, you will now create a wiki home page for the online learning community.

Before setting up your home page:

- Access the “Wikis in Plain English” video by entering the following address in your web address bar:
http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=wikis+in+plain+English&search_type=
- This video will provide you with additional information about using wiki as a tool for collaboration.

To set up your home page:

- Enter the following address into your address bar: <http://www.wikispaces.com>
- Under “Navigation” on the top left of the screen, click “Home.” You will edit this page to create a Home page for your online learning community.
- Click “Edit This Page” at the top of the screen, and create your home page in the space. As you create the home page, keep in mind that the goal of the online learning community is to improve technology use and integration at your campus.
- On the home page, include the following:
 - The name of your online learning community and campus location.
 - The names of the members and their positions (grade level/content area).
 - The purpose of the online learning community. (Remember, the goal of the online learning community is to improve technology use and integration at your campus. Support your purpose statement with data that you collected in the Project 1 Analysis and Project 2 Application.)
 - One question to get the members’ ideas flowing. (Relate the question you pose to the data you collected from the Texas Star Chart.)
 - Other members may add to the list of questions, or click Discussion and enter their comments. The wikispace <http://coeprofessionaldevelopment.wikispaces.com/> also contains an example discussion page.
- Click “Save,” and answer the questions provided below.

How do you envision using the wiki to facilitate an online learning community? What are the benefits of using this tool? What are the challenges?

I have been using a Wikispace for 2 years at <http://leanneknight.wikispaces.com/> which has helped keep my teachers up to date on topics such as web 2.0, conference topics, how to videos, articles, etc. The teachers who access this regularly have found it quite informative and if they have ideas they wish to share I can simply invite them to become a member of my wiki.

For the wiki I created on this assignment (<http://activeusers.wikispaces.com>), I wanted to

know how the teachers on my campus foresee the utilization of online learning. Their views are important since the chosen teachers on this wiki are the teachers who help with technology professional development throughout our campus. Also, this wiki is to help organize the professional development sessions we are going to offer on campus. I want to acquire everyone's views on what to offer this year to our teachers during our "ActivUser" meetings that take place once a month after school for technology professional development. It was difficult, at first, for everyone to "accept" the invitation to join the wiki. I finally sent out an email praising the first teacher who joined the wiki. Within an hour, the other members of our committee had all joined. I love positive reinforcement.

Wikis are a wonderful tool, not only for a technology leader to have educators or stakeholders partake in discussions or a learning environment, but for the students to use a wiki. One fantastic example of how a wiki can work in a classroom is our state curriculum section for fourth grade to research Native Americans. Every year fourth graders research different Native American tribes and find the exact same research information. With a wiki, students can add their research to the site. Then, the following year, the new fourth graders can add more information to the wiki. This will allow more in-depth research to take place since all the previous year's research is in one place to read. Since the information is online in one place, teachers could share the product with other teachers in other districts.

If teachers use a wiki amongst themselves they are more likely to use the technology with their students. The challenge is how to get teachers to use a wiki.

The educators on campus who are not scared by the word "wiki" have visited my site and use it regularly. Whereas, the more apprehensive teachers worry that they will not know how to navigate the site. They do not bother even clicking on the link I provide them. I have decided that during my six week meetings I will show teachers the site and show how easy it is to use. Once teachers see how easy it is to navigate, they will be more likely to use it themselves. If a teacher feels more comfortable using my wiki, then they will create a wiki for collaboration with their students.